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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

December 15, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Special Background Investigations

As you know, the inordinate amount of time taken by the Defense Investigative Service (DIS) to complete the Special Background Investigations (SBIs) which form the basis for Special Compartmented Information accesses has been a great concern to this organization since well before my appointment to this post. Programs critical to the nation's security have suffered schedule slips and incurred extraordinary costs due to the SBI problem.

Following several months of study and after affecting all necessary coordinations, I have authorized a four-month pilot program utilizing a commercial investigative house to conduct field investigations on behalf of NRO Programs Á and C. This carefully controlled program is designed to determine whether use of non-government investigators is a viable solution to this nagging problem. Should the experiment prove successful, I intend to enter into a longer-term program to reduce the SBI backlog dramatically.

I will keep you advised of any significant events during this experiment and will share the results of my efforts with other organizations that suffer from unacceptable delays in obtaining background investigations.

E. C. Aldridge, Jr.

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NRO review(s) completed.

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